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Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) CARES Act Updates

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In March 2020, Congress approved the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which included \$3.5 billion in additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to provide immediate support to families and providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Maine's Child Care Subsidy Program [received \\$10,953,470](#) under the CARES Act.

After assessing current needs and hearing from parents, providers, and advocates, the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) announced on April 22, 2020 three strategies to utilize CARES Act CCDBG funding to aid providers and families impacted by COVID-19. Below are status updates on each of the three strategies:

1. Provide child care subsidy for essential employees who exceed current Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP) income guidelines (until 6/30/20 or two weeks after the end of the civil emergency, whichever is soonest):
 - To date, subsidy has been provided to 435 essential employees who are over income limits contained in the CCSP rules. 644 individual children from these 435 families have been served. Currently, there are 187 new applications pending. New applications will continue to be processed until June 12, 2020. OCFS projects spending \$1,000,000 on this strategy.
2. Provide a one-time stipend to:
 - a. all licensed child care providers, and
 - b. all license-exempt non-relative providers participating in CCSP
 - To date, stipends have been paid to 1,650 providers; 844 family child care providers, 759 facilities and 47 license-exempt providers. Currently, there are approximately 30 stipend payments still pending. OCFS projects spending \$5,229,650 on this strategy.
3. Provide grants to aid child care providers in modifying or resuming operations following the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The recovery grant application process will be open to providers beginning June 8, 2020. More details will be made available this week. OCFS projects spending \$4,723,820 on this strategy.